Payne, Pamela

Subject: JusticeNet

From: Bamberger, James (OCLA) [mailto:jim.bamberger@ocla.wa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2010 9:09 AM
To: Backus, Brian; HALL, JEFF; Marler, Dirk; Diseth, Veronica
Cc: Ruhl, Chris
Subject: RE: JusticeNet Progress

Here is a link to the press conference
http://www.ntia.doc.gov/press/2010/pressconf_09162010.html

James A. Bamberger, Director
Office of Civil Legal Aid
PO Box 41183
Olympia, WA 98507
360-704-4135
360-280-1477 (cell)

From: Backus, Brian [mailto:Brian.Backus@courts.wa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2010 9:02 AM
To: Hall, Jeff; Marler, Dirk; Diseth, Veronica (Courts)
Cc: Ruhl, Chris; Bamberger, James (OCLA)
Subject: JusticeNet Progress

The US Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has awarded Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grants to both of the applicants that included JusticeNet proposals in their applications. These include:

1. Comprehensive Community Infrastructure grant to NoaNet for $54,452,347 (total grant award) for building broadband infrastructure, such as fiber-optic cable, to unserved and underserved areas. About 40 JusticeNet partners will benefit.
2. Public Computing Center (PCC) grant to The Puget Sound Center Foundation for Teaching, Learning, and Technology for $4,169,734 (total grant award). This award includes funds for four court-based public computing centers in Washington State and for Northwest Justice Project to create videos for use in the centers.

What's most exciting, besides the news of the grant award, is that it was announced this morning in a press conference at the Department of Commerce that included remarks by Professor Laurence Tribe, now U.S. Department of Justice Senior Counselor for Access to Justice, and NTIA Administrator Lawrence E. Strickling. Both Tribe and Strickling singled out and devoted a large part of their remarks to the JusticeNet projects.

EdLab Group

communities • connect • network

Communities Connect Network Project Announcement

The Communities Connect Network Project has received a grant of $4,169,734 from the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) of the Department of Commerce National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA). This grant is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Communities Connect Network Project will expand the capacity of Washington State public computing centers (PCCs) to improve broadband adoption rates, workforce preparation, digital literacy, access to education, justice resources, and training. The project links rural and urban resources together to serve unemployed, low-income, disabled, immigrants, and youth through over 39 libraries, non-profit organizations, public housing, community centers, and justice centers in Washington State.

The project demonstrates that tribal and government agencies, libraries, educators, public housing, the courts, and non-profits in our state are committed to work together for real digital inclusion, broadband adoption, and to ensure quality public computer learning services for residents in need.

The Communities Connect Network Project will foster equitable access, training and increased broadband adoption through:

1) adding and upgrading computers and software, adding assistive technology, extending operating hours, and establishing four new public computer centers, including new public access computers at courthouses;

2) capacity-building training to help PCCs meet the needs of vulnerable populations including in the areas of digital skill building, education, online legal services, and workforce preparation;

3) encouraging information distribution and sharing on the topics of education, workforce preparation, online safety, legal, financial literacy, and computer lab management through an online resource portal; and

4) establishing a Public Computing Center Directory and referral pipeline to help residents locate PCCs and help providers refer clients to services and support.

As a result of this project, thousands of low-income families in Washington State will be able to access broadband services, education, job, health, and the civic tools that information technology provides. Public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and libraries across the state will be better able to utilize high-speed Internet services through resources and training to meet the community needs.

Key partners include the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County, Worksource, Office of Civil Legal Aid, Northwest Justice Project, City of Seattle, University of Washington Information School, Washington State Access to Justice Board, and NPower Seattle. The public computing centers participating in this project include the following, although centers across the state will benefit from the resources and training developed through this grant:

Libraries: La Conner Regional Library, Upper Skagit Library, Burlington Public Library Puyallup Public Library, and Yakama Nation Library

Non-profit organizations: New Futures Technology Labs, Edith Bishel Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Chinese Information and Service Center, Metrocenter YMCA, Street Youth Ministries, Associated Recreation Council/RecTech, Horn of Africa Services, Helping Link, Multimedia Resources & Training Institute, Seattle Housing Authority sites (STAR, Westwood Heights, Denny Terrace, & Jefferson Terrace), Neighborhood House (Highpoint and Rainier Vista), East African Community Services at New Holly, Lopez Island Family Resource Center, VetTECH Center, and La Casa Hogar

Justice sites: Chelan County Court/Law Library, Cowlitz County Courthouse, Kalispel Tribal Court, Whatcom County Superior Court and East Whatcom Regional Resource Center